

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Marc ALAIA et al.

Application No.: 09/311,557

Filed: May 14, 1999

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
CONTROLLING THE INITIATION AND
DURATION OF OVERTIME
INTERVALS IN ELECTRONIC
AUCTIONS (As Amended)

Group Art Unit: 2761

Examiner: Unassigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 89-138 as follows:

--89. A computer program product for enabling a processor in a computer system to conduct a business-to-business online auction for custom industrial products or materials between a buyer and a plurality of potential sellers, said computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on the computer system, said computer readable program code means comprising:
a first computer readable program code means for enabling the computer system to offer



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